

1. Tredyffrin Public Library

Encyclopedia of Pollution

[Tredyffrin Public Library currently owns this item, but for the purpose of discussion I will assume that they do not]

A trip through the titles and subject headings in the library's catalog reveal that Tredyffrin has several pollution-related resources, but that they are scattered among specific interest areas (air, soil, water, etc.). The Chester County Library System has even more resources, so I think that a "definitive yet accessible" encyclopedia, as *Booklist* describes it, would be very helpful to patrons who need more basic direction. The *Booklist* description further assures me that *Encyclopedia of Pollution* is appropriately formatted (one volume, but extensive) and current (2011). I would prefer to know more about the arrangement of the book and any plans for any forthcoming editions, but assuming no surprises there, yes, I would recommend purchasing it.

Encyclopedia of American Environmental History

I would like to know more about the authors of this book's entries in order to gauge its authority and style of treatment, which in combination with its hefty price could influence me against recommending *Encyclopedia of American Environmental History* for purchase. However, I would hope to lead a development strategy for the reference collection that is inclusive of emergent fields that the library otherwise barely covers were I a reference librarian at Tredyffrin. The scope and format seem suited to a general audience, and the library has little to offer patrons interested in this topic currently. I suppose that's another yes recommendation, but a cautious one.

Dirr's Encyclopedia of Trees & Shrubs

Admittedly, the publication of this edition was a bit of an event for the landscape design library which I currently operate. Dirr's *Hardy Trees and Shrubs: An Illustrated Encyclopedia*, published in 1997, is an essential reference source because of its arrangement, its scope, and its authoritative strengths. In fact it became so relied upon that the 2011 edition evaluated here has barely begun to circulate. Tredyffrin owns two copies of the 1997 book as well. Assuming that their reference librarians want to keep current on garden and landscape design references, I would have to recommend the 2011 edition. However, it may be important to stress Katz's maxim that superseded items be kept for five to ten years. I suspect that the 1997 edition will still appeal to experienced patrons while the 2011 edition will appeal to those less familiar and wanting current information.

2. Hagerty Library

Arguing for evolution: an encyclopedia for understanding science

The purpose, treatment, and especially the arrangement (I don't see mention of any besides the debunking of predictions at the open of each *chapter*) of the material in this book do not strike me as suited to a reference resource. I understand that it takes a broad historical perspective, but otherwise there is little here that reminds me of an *encyclopedia*, per se. Its format, scope, and currency make it seem like a great resource in a History of Science curriculum, and indeed Cotner's earlier book is shelved on the circulating stacks in Hagerty, but I would not recommend it for the reference collection.

Encyclopedia of agrophysics

The scope and authority of this item, and its relation to a similar essential reference work in its field--*Encyclopedia of Soil Science*--make it an obvious choice for any university library that supports research in an agriculture programs. Of course Drexel does not have anything approaching this focus, which is reflected by its libraries offering no database guidance in agriculture and owning no great agricultural physics texts more current than 1966. I definitely would not recommend such a significant expenditure in light of this.

Kenyon College

Propylaeum

The scope and treatment of this resource make it relatively unattractive to an undergraduate audience, especially those at a college without an archaeology program (Kenyon). That said, the above metrics, the open access philosophy expressed on the website, and the apparent room for self-publishing and collaborative resource-building make it a much more attractive resource to shop to faculty in the Classics and Art History departments. I would be eager to hear their reaction. If there is a cost for the service I haven't found it, so I would at least recommend this resource to reference librarians for the above fields who may want to test new portals together with their faculty.

Sharpe Online Reference

This resource appears to be much better scaled to the library at Kenyon. While the cost listed for full access is shocking, the one-time, per-title charge for annually updated material is attractive for a library serving the specific curricula of (relatively) few professors. The format and arrangement as described are natural to the library setting (though I am not that impressed by the extent of the search options), the scope is concrete, the resource is perpetually current. I would recommend this reference source to the librarians at Kenyon.